

H.R. 6282, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the “Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building”;

H.R. 6302, to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes;

H.R. 6304, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the “Adolfo ‘Harpo’ Celaya Post Office”;

H.R. 6323, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the “Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center”;

H.R. 6400, to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey;

H.R. 6431, to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives;

H.R. 6477, to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title;

S. 8, to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore Thornberry on Thursday, December 15, 2016:

H.R. 6014, to allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects.

#### AMERICAN INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3084) to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “American Innovation and Competitiveness Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH  
Sec. 101. Reaffirmation of merit-based peer review.

Sec. 102. Transparency and accountability.

Sec. 103. EPSCoR reaffirmation and update.

Sec. 104. Cybersecurity research.

Sec. 105. Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Update.

Sec. 106. Physical sciences coordination.

Sec. 107. Laboratory program improvements.

Sec. 108. Standard Reference Data Act update.

Sec. 109. NSF mid-scale project investments.

Sec. 110. Oversight of NSF major multi-user research facility projects.

Sec. 111. Personnel oversight.

Sec. 112. Management of the U.S. Antarctic Program.

Sec. 113. NIST campus security.

Sec. 114. Coordination of sustainable chemistry research and development.

Sec. 115. Misrepresentation of research results.

Sec. 116. Research reproducibility and replication.

Sec. 117. Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative.

#### TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDEN REDUCTION

Sec. 201. Interagency working group on research regulation.

Sec. 202. Scientific and technical collaboration.

Sec. 203. NIST grants and cooperative agreements update.

Sec. 204. Repeal of certain obsolete reports.

Sec. 205. Repeal of certain provisions.

Sec. 206. Grant subrecipient transparency and oversight.

Sec. 207. Micro-purchase threshold for procurement solicitations by research institutions.

Sec. 208. Coordination of international science and technology partnerships.

#### TITLE III—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION

Sec. 301. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program update.

Sec. 302. Space grants.

Sec. 303. STEM Education Advisory Panel.

Sec. 304. Committee on STEM Education.

Sec. 305. Programs to expand STEM opportunities.

Sec. 306. NIST education and outreach.

Sec. 307. Presidential awards for excellence in STEM mentoring.

Sec. 308. Working group on inclusion in STEM fields.

Sec. 309. Improving undergraduate STEM experiences.

Sec. 310. Computer science education research.

Sec. 311. Informal STEM education.

Sec. 312. Developing STEM apprenticeships.

Sec. 313. NSF report on broadening participation.

Sec. 314. NOAA science education programs.

Sec. 315. Hispanic-serving institutions undergraduate program update.

#### TITLE IV—LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Sec. 401. Prize competition authority update.

Sec. 402. Crowdsourcing and citizen science.

Sec. 403. NIST other transaction authority update.

Sec. 404. NIST director functions update.

Sec. 405. NIST Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology update.

#### TITLE V—MANUFACTURING

Sec. 501. Hollings manufacturing extension partnership improvements.

#### TITLE VI—INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Sec. 601. Innovation corps.

Sec. 602. Translational research grants.

Sec. 603. Optics and photonics technology innovations.

Sec. 604. United States chief technology officer.

Sec. 605. National research council study on technology for emergency notifications on campuses.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, unless expressly provided otherwise:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term “Federal science agency” has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6623).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation” means the National Science Foundation.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) NIST.—The term “NIST” means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(6) STEM.—The term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the American COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(7) STEM EDUCATION.—The term “STEM education” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

#### TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH SEC. 101. REAFFIRMATION OF MERIT-BASED PEER REVIEW.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) sustained, predictable Federal funding of basic research is essential to United States leadership in science and technology;

(2) the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria are appropriate for evaluating grant proposals, as concluded by the 2011 National Science Board Task Force on Merit Review;

(3) evaluating proposals on the basis of the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria should be used to assure that the Foundation's activities are in the national interest as these reviews can affirm that—

(A) the proposals funded by the Foundation are of high quality and advance scientific knowledge; and

(B) the Foundation's grants address societal needs through basic research findings or through related activities; and

(4) as evidenced by the Foundation's contributions to scientific advancement, economic growth, human health, and national security, its peer review and merit review processes have identified and funded scientifically and societally relevant basic research and should be preserved.

(b) MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA.—The Foundation shall maintain the intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria, among other specific criteria as appropriate, as the basis for evaluating grant proposals in the merit review process.

(c) UPDATES.—If after the date of enactment of this Act a change is made to the merit-review process, the Director shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 30 days after the date of the change.

#### SEC. 102. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—